

TO: FCC

RE: Docket 17-108 Restoring Internet Freedom

Date: 12 July 2017

Dear Chairman Pai and Commisioners,

I am filing this comment to urge you to maintain the current regulations regarding net neutrality. Access to information is an absolutely crucial part of our democracy in the United States. Because of the price of the provision of access to the Internet, there is a direct relationship between the economic circumstances of a household and it's access to information. The current regulations that support net neutrality help ensure that even economically challenged households can access information sources. The current rules support access to streaming news source via public library systems, which, without net neutrality likely would be unaffordable even to municipal library systems.

I write not only as a concerned citizen, but also as a professional librarian. I teach a course for first year university students in Information Literacy. Many of my students are from underserved communities. Affordable access to the Internet is essential for my students' families' responsible participation in the life of our country. Net neutrality allows wise purchases via online vendors (a genuine benefit for American businesses, small and large); wider viewership of US media (supporting advertising revenue); thoughtful participation in government via ease of access to forms and other information; and other benefits.

Please use your authority to strengthen Internet access for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Bickley, Reference and Instruction Librarian, California State University East Bay